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City of Troy Receives Weed and Seed Funding

For Immediate Release

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(August 31, 2006- TROY)- Mayor Harry J Tutunjian announced Thursday that the City of Troy was the only municipality in New York State to receive new funding for the federal Weed and Seed Program. The City has been told by the Justice Department that it will receive \$175,000 in grant money during the next year.

Earlier this year the City of Troy received approval from the Justice Department to expand the program from Douw Street in North Central to the southern border of the City. While 23 municipalities were approved for expanded programs around the United States, only 13 received funding for those programs, Troy being the only in the Empire State to achieve that honor.

"We are extremely proud," Tutunjian said. "We look forward to working with the committed group of residents that make up the Weed and Seed committee in an effort to reduce crime in Troy and offer our young residents better opportunities for success."

Among the programs that will be funded through the Weed and Seed program are:

- Support for the Joint Task Force on Crime- \$24,000
- Troy Housing Authority (Operation Safe Haven and after-school programs)- \$13,500
- Boys and Girls Club- \$29,000
- Roarke Center- \$30,000
- TRIP Landlord Training- \$1,950
- AME Zion Church (teen mentoring)- \$2,000
- Phase 1 of a crime mapping system- \$18,909
- Drug Education for Youth (DEFY)- \$8,080

The approval of Troy's funding will likely be extended for five years, and be expanded during the third year to \$200,000.

"Grants like the Weed and Seed program are important tools we can use to help solve some of our most troubling issues," Tutunjian said. "We have a dedicated staff that spent many hours working on this application, and judging by the results, I believe we have a lot to be proud of."

Community Police Officer Colleen Goldston will oversee the Weed and Seed Program.